NEWS

Building Department provides ADU update

RACHEL WHITEHOUSE | CORRESPONDENT and SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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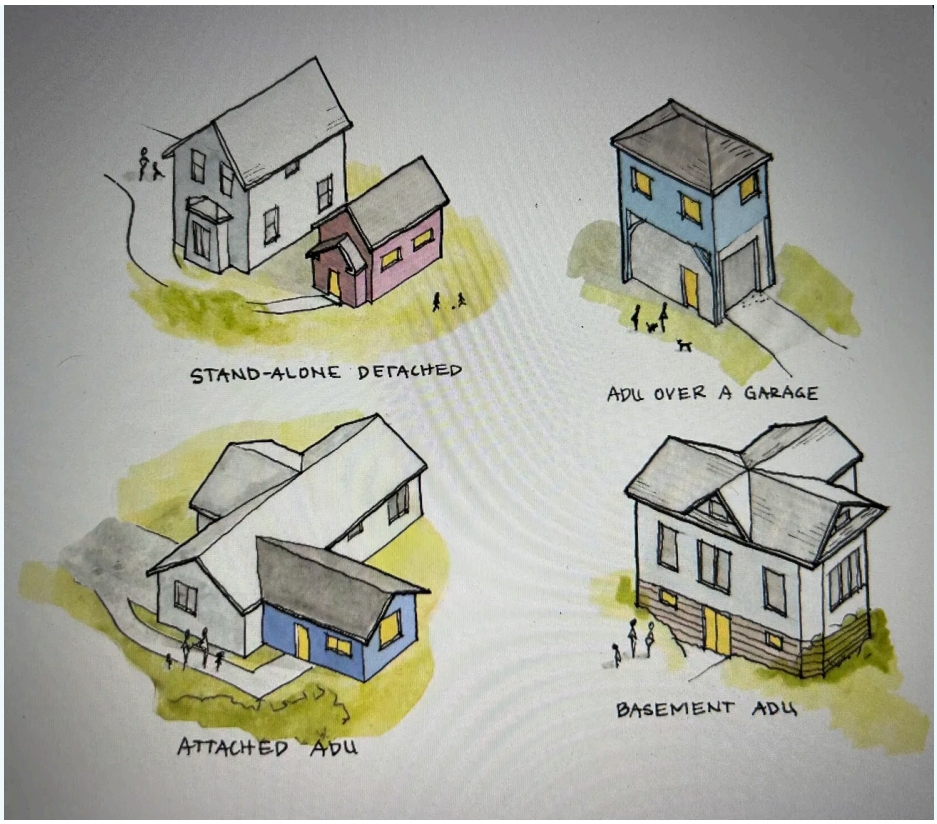

Examples of ADU's from Housing Solutions Network

By Rachel Whitehouse

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It's been almost one year since Winchester Town Meeting voted to adopt the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw. The bylaw allows for the creation of ADUs in order to one, provide Winchester property owners with an opportunity to age in place by creating an independent living space for persons over the age of 62 and two, provide a living space for persons with disabilities that will allow them to live independently and also qualify for financial assistance that depends on the presence of a separate entrance, a bathroom, and cooking facilities within their residence.

The bylaw allows interior, attached, and detached ADUs to be built in Winchester on single-family and two-family lots.

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Since that November 2022 vote, the Winchester Building Department has received three ADU applications and approved two ADU building permits, according to Tom Kennedy, Winchester Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer. According to Kennedy, the ADU permits were issued in June for a detached ADU on Hemingway Street, and in October for an interior ADU on Pine Street.

Winchester residency requirements require at least one person age 62+ and/or disabled to reside in either the ADU or the primary dwelling. This qualifying person does not have to be a family member. Winchester further requires that the property must be the primary residence of either the owner of the property or the beneficiary of the trust that owns the property. The property owner may rent out either the primary dwelling or the certified ADU as long as all Winchester Zoning Bylaws are met.

Further to the building permit, an initial ADU certification and annual recertification by the Building Department are also required. Th must attest yearly that the bylaw's requirements are being met. In the

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event the owner doesn't qualify or doesn't want the unit to be recertified, it can be used for any normal home use, such as for an office or a home gym, but it can't be rented out. There have been no ADU certifications as of yet, Kennedy said.

Cover photo courtesy of the Housing Solutions Network www.housingsolutionsnetwork.org

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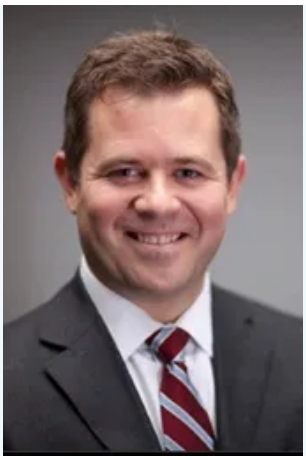

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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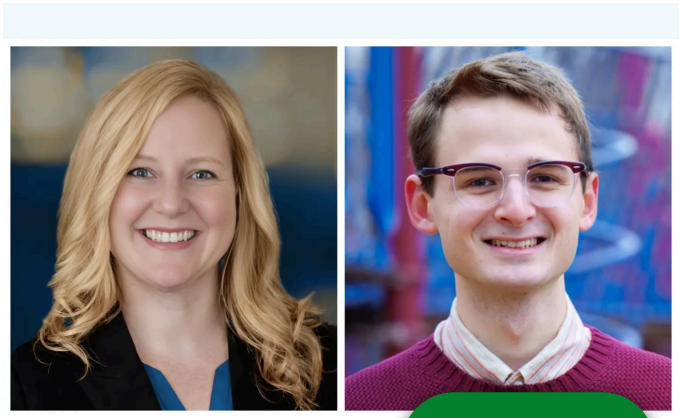

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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